Rozen Maiden

4

PEACH PIT

TOKYOPOP

Hinaichigo
The youngest of the Rozen Maiden dolls. She is staying with the Sakurada family as Shinku's servant.

Suigintoh
A Rozen Maiden doll. She is Shinku's rival.

Suiseiseki
One of the Rozen Maiden dolls. She came looking for Shinku's help.

Nori Sakurada
Jun's older sister. She handles all the chores and housework for the Sakurada household. She's quite a space cadet.

Tomoe Kashiwara
Jun's childhood friend and classmate. She was the former owner of Hinaichigo.

Souseiseki
One of the Rozen Maiden dolls and twin sister to Suiseiseki.

Introduction

Sakurada Jun is a middle school "hikikomori," a social recluse who refuses to leave his house. His favorite thrill is buying random products online and then returning them before the "cooling off" period runs out. His sister Nori is concerned about him, but Jun will not open his heart to her. One day among some items he had ordered online, he found an exquisite antique doll. Bursting with curiosity, Jun wound the key in the back of the doll. The doll started to move and, to his surprise, said to Jun, "My name is Shinku. From now on you shall be my servant." Whoever winds the doll's key becomes the doll's servant! Shinku is a living doll, one of the Rozen Maidens. To protect Shinku's Rosa Mystica, Jun gets tangled up in a series of magical and strange battles of the other Rozen Maiden dolls, all of whom vie for the opportunity to be Alice.

Character Guide

Jun Sakurada
Middle school hikikomori. Circumstance has made him Shinku's servant.

Shinku
Number Five of the Rozen Maidens, a series of dolls with magical powers.

Rozen Maiden

ローゼン メイデン

contents

Phase 19 ——— 7

Phase 20 ——— 39

Phase 21 ——— 79

extra phase ——— 109

Phase 22 ——— 125

By the way the correct way to eat a scone with tea is...
...to turn around three times and bark before you eat yes.
Ruff
No, afternoon tea. It's an English custom in which they sip tea and eat small, usually buttery, snacks.
In England people enjoy tea ten times during the course of a regular day

Oh, Jun-kun is in his room, shopping online
Where is Jun?
Suiseiseki! You Liar!

Thank you, Nori.
Would you like some more Shinku-chan?

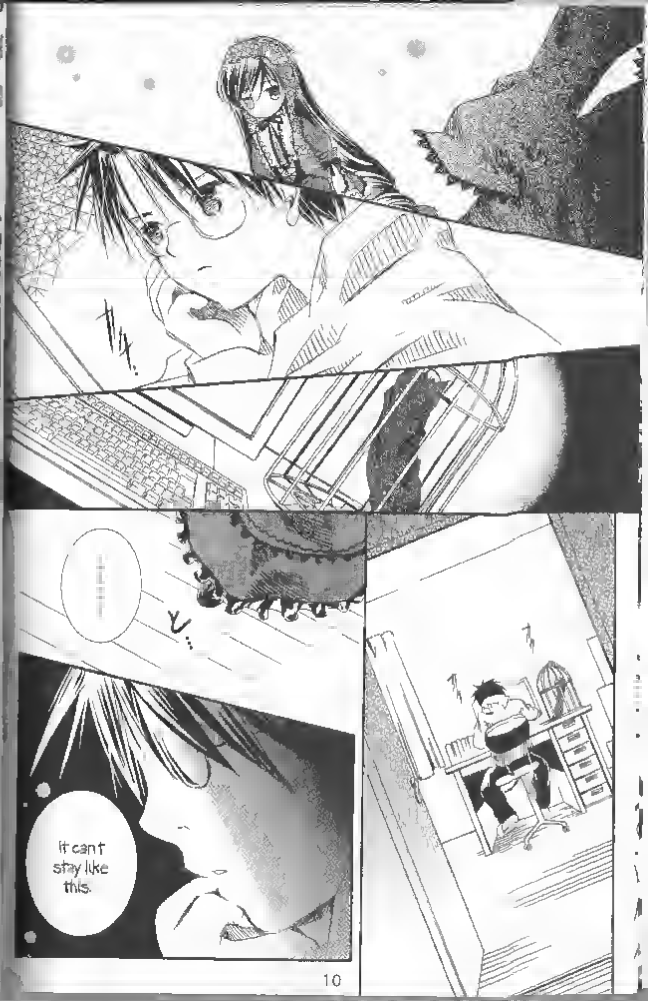
I see.
Ah...

Wow!
I decided to go all out for the holiday
Today's snack time is incredible Thanks, Nori. ♥

Tee?
It's going to be like afternoon tea
You do these types of things well, Nori.

And we have cake and sandwiches...
♫
Yes, yes.
Suiseiseki-chan helped me bake the scones right, Suiseiseki-chan?

Shinku's arm...
I have to fix it
What?
Yes...
.....
Soul
What is that birdcage made of, anyway? No matter what I do, it doesn't want to move...


.....
It can't stay like this.

We help take care of...
...the branches and the leaves of the soul that one cannot see
That is our job... the power of the gardeners... yes.
If we have Souseiseki's shears we may be able to cut them away
but with my watering can, all I can do is give nourishment to the soul.
Nourishment?
The dream was so strong
Yes...People are entirely defenseless in dreams.
The Sea of Unconsciousness is made up of everybody's soul...
The birdcage and the thorns were both born out of Jun's territorial waters yes.
The cage that does not open must reflect the state of your soul, Jun
The restraints that bind your soul are in the way yes.
...soul.
My...

Sank?!
This says that The Diana sank in 1857 crossing the Atlantic...
So you weren't shopping online, yes?
Well, no... I wanted to find out, so...
But look at this.
And on the ship's boarding list—
It was on its way to Europe
The heir to the Yuibushi fortune
there is only one Japanese passenger

!!
What is it, Jun?
I found it! This is it
Hmm...
It's kind of vague.
W-well..
How is Souseisekis master going to abuse that kind of power?
So it actually existed
The Diana...!
The Diana
This is...
...the ship I saw in that memory

R-really?
We snuck in for a peek at a huge rose garden that was supposed to up there
The Rose mansion?
I took you there when you were little
I remember both of us being really disappointed
When we got there, it was in ruins Everything was dead
But...
I wonder if anyone lives there now?
The Yubishi were apparently nobility
You're dead!
Waaah !!!!
And Jun-kun you said, "h-h-haunted house," and then wet your pants

Master's brother..!
This is who the roses were talking about
This is him It has to be...
But... Souseiseki's master said it was revenge
Revenge for what?
He eloped with someone, got on a ship..
and died when it sank.
Why do I know that name?
Wait Yubishi..?
The Rose mansion
They own that mansion at the top of the hill

What's happened to Nori?
I don't know. She fainted or something.
The door...!!
What?

What's this abou--
A rose garden...
A mansion
W-what's wrong?
Sooo sleepy...
Yawn
That must be it...
Maybe her brain got over worked
She passed out!
Zzzz...
Sleepy...
Ah...
What's all the racket?

Hey...
...dolls.
Sou-
sei-
seki..

Sou-sei-seki... !!
Wait...
I didn't come here to fight
I came to collect you..
..Suiseiseki
What?
Our master..
says he'll forgive you..
..Suisei-seki.
If you come back quietly and cooperate, he will forgive you
If you choose to do anything else..
What?
I shall seize your Rosa Mystica and your watering can.
He doesn't need a big fortune gardener.

Those shears aren't so tough.
She saved your ass, remember!
Who does she think she is!
Hey!
That's not right...
No..
..the human soul!
..can nurture... or kill..
We, the gardeners of dreams...

Suiseiseki.
What would you like to do?
Your master must have realized..
Hey, Shinku
How's your arm?
This is quite a good look for you. Maybe you should cut the other one off too.
You can't kill with shears alone.
..the importance of the shears and the watering can pairing

Too many nutrients can rot the leaves, and allow weeds to grow
Weeds interfere with the growth of the soul, trapping it in a swamp of ugly memories.
The shears can also cut off vital branches...
Robbing you of precious memories stored deep in the soul

Yes.
The master seeks her tree
But what the master wants to erase is..
You don't under stand?
some-thing else
Suisei seki ?
Like looking into a mirror?
Is she still alive?
The woman that eloped with him?
The human soul eventually crumbles.
Happy memories will fade and sad ones remain to haunt you
He has a deep and sad grudge-
For that he needs more than the shears alone
Souseiseki's master said he will exact revenge
The woman on the other side of the ocean..
A sad story..
Still regrets..
..and a desire to have his enemy feel the same suf fering he has endured

Don't you feel the same way?
I always want to be with you, Souseiseki, yes.
I
I am not the same as you
Suiseiseki.
..I can fight even you.
..for the master
That's why..

We're caught in the shadow of the other
Which way is the world facing?
Which way is the clock turning?
Which way am I standing?
I understand the master's feelings.
That's why I must protect him

Shinku... Hinaichigo. Nori...
Not just Jun...
I will protect all of them.
...and spare no one in their defense...
...not even you Souseiseki.
My sister Suiseiseki...
The armless Shinku
And the master of two dolls
..I'm at a disadvantage
It looks as though

No...
I... I don't like to fight, but...
So.. I will protect him, yes!
I chose Jun as my master!

Urm...
Oh, I forgot Nori.
Hey are you okay?
Oh..? What am I..?
Don't concern yourself. She was made to sleep so that the entrance could be opened
.....
Yawn ?
Yawn ?
I shall wait for you at the Rose Mansion.
We sh...ll battle...
...Dolls.

Lempicka..
And Hinai-chigo!
Indeed you are
I'm here too
Suiseiseki..
Next time, we really will fight.

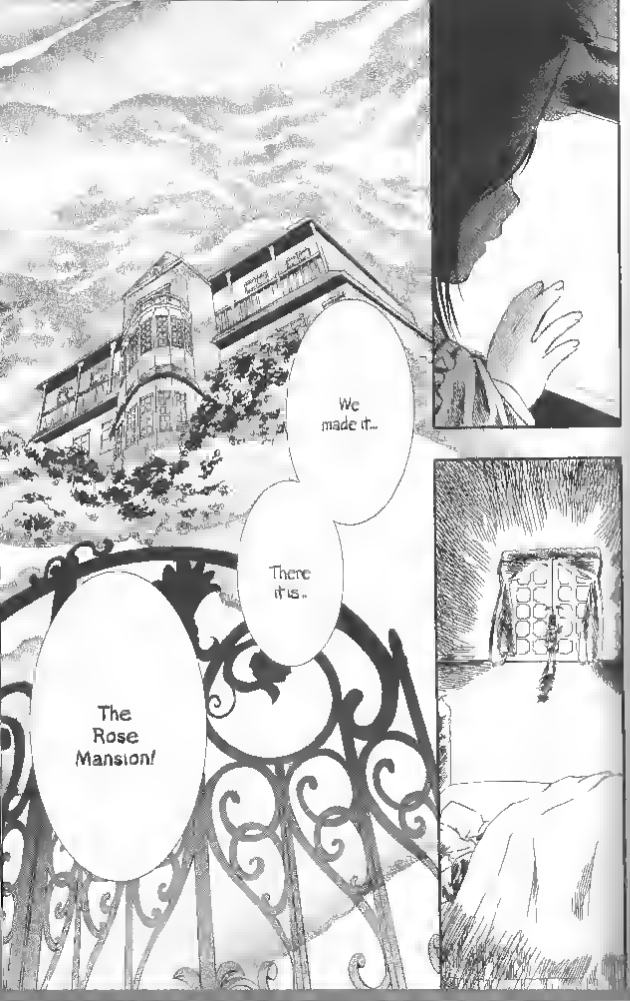
Shinku.
Good night
Night yes.
Maybe you should stay behind
Oh.
Uhmm... About tomorrow—
Yes, Jun?
I'll be okay I will have all of you...
You're concerned about me now.
What a loyal servant you've become.
It's hard.
Don't you know what scones are, yes? I made them, you know, yes!
Don't you be getting ideas, you little human, yes
Ouch!
I could really get into this protecting thing
It doesn't feel half bad
Ooops I have to go shopping for dinner
I'm not gonna bark for a scone!
Special for you. If you turn around three times and bark, you can eat it yes

..there
at..
the
Rose
Mansion

Phase 20

Hey, Jun Don't tilt the baskets so much.
Make sure you carry them so that the bottom of each is parallel to the ground.
HUFF
HUFF
Hey, are we there yet?
Almost. It's up this hill a little ways.
Shut up!
If you don't like it walk!!
Why do I have to carry them anyway?
If I wasn't hauling these things I could have rode my bike there.
The little human is a hikkomori, so he's out of shape.

Rozen Maiden


We made it...
There it is...
The Rose Mansion!

Don't call me a hikikomori!
Don't shake me yes?
Don't ever use that word around me, got it?!

That's the larva of a cicada, you idiot!
Is Jun gonna die?
It lives deep underground and when it finally makes its way outside it dies after only seven days...
Whaaa

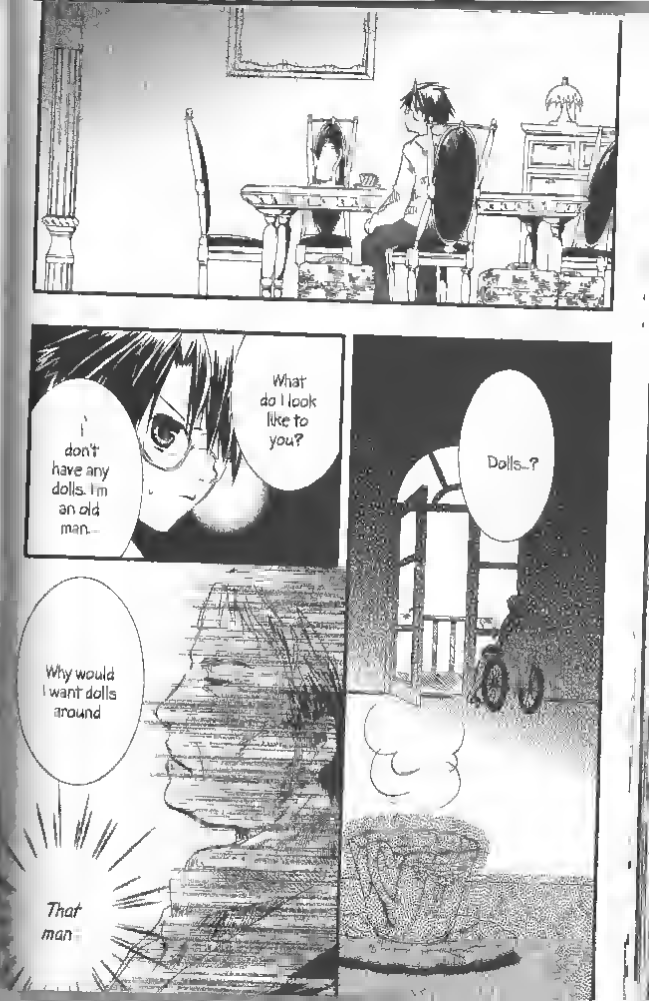
Oh.
Oh, I know that one.
I saw it on Mushi Mushi Q.

Whoa!
Of course I am. I don't have any problems going out--
Whaa!

That's right Jun-kun For example you're coming to the mansion with us
Okay listen up! I am not a hikikomori! I just don't go out unless I have a reason to

ゴン
No one's answering the door
ゴン
That's strange
You'll just get in the way. Go home and make dinner
Jun-kun... Maybe I should go in with you
I see...
Then everyone be home for dinner, okay?
Yes, yes. Just go.
Oh...?

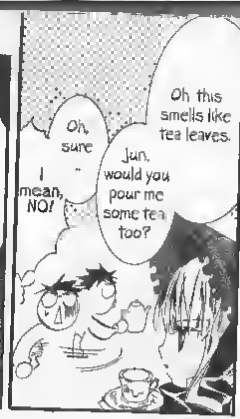
Especially ones that think I have their imbecilic toys.
If that is all then I suggest you leave. Noisy children irritate my health
He looks quite a bit older, but...
...he must be the man in the memory...
No...
It's a lie!
Eh...
There goes our cover
I couldn't breathe...
Let me see Souseiseki, you heinous old man!


What do I look like to you?
I don't have any dolls. I'm an old man...
Dolls...?
Why would I want dolls around
That man...

No...
It's not... no?
Whoa! It's an earthquake!
What?!
...another door opened too
You felt it too Suiseseki?
When the front door opened...
That's right.
When you walked into this mansion...

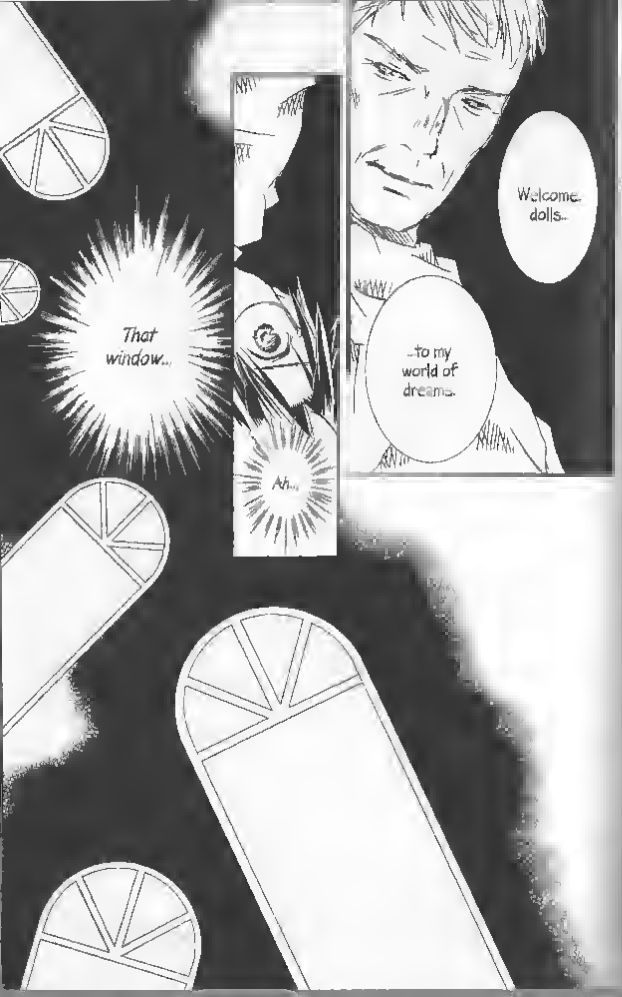
How marvelous

I told you guys not to come out until I gave the word
.....


Oh, this smells like tea leaves.
Oh, sure
I mean, NO!
Jun, would you pour me some tea too?

My god...

Are you their master?
You have three Rozen Maiden dolls.

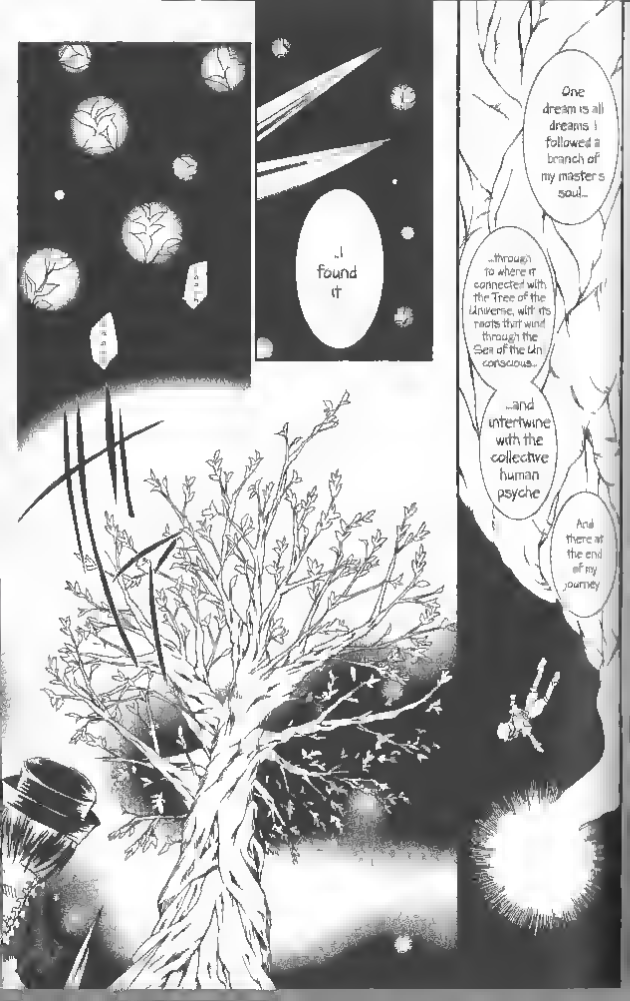

That window...
Ah...
Welcome, dolls...
...to my world of dreams...

...you entered...
...my world

This is a world of dreams.
Of course.
Sousei-seki!

Futaba!
Don't go
Without you...
The Diana.. sank..?
That's not possible
—I won't be whole!
And you swore you'd be my partner in our new business venture for the company
You're my twin my other half... I need you to act as one
Your place is at my side
No Kazuha We're separate.
I need to act for my own happiness...
so my place is at her side.
Don't...
Don't go, Futaba...
Futaba!
Kazuha.. don't try to stop me
But don't you understand?!
Your elopement made a mockery of our family name.

That woman had lived!
She's still alive!
The woman who tore us apart and took every thing from us.
I could not... would not...acknowledge Futaba's death.
So...
...I chose to become Futaba, and live his life
My life has been trapped in that day ever since... an empty, meaningless shell of a life
When I lost him... I had lost who I was.
But...
But it was me...
...who had died
We are fairly certain that this is Futaba Yuibishi
The bodies have decomposed considerably, so identification has been difficult... however there was only one Asian passenger
This is my brother Kazuha...
He used my name, his twin brother's name, and boarded the ship...
No...
How could this be...?
No...
He was supposed to return


...I found it
One dream is all dreams. I followed a branch of my master's soul...
...through to where it connected with the Tree of the Universe, with its roots that wind through the Sea of the Un conscious...
...and intertwine with the collective human psyche
And there at the end of my journey

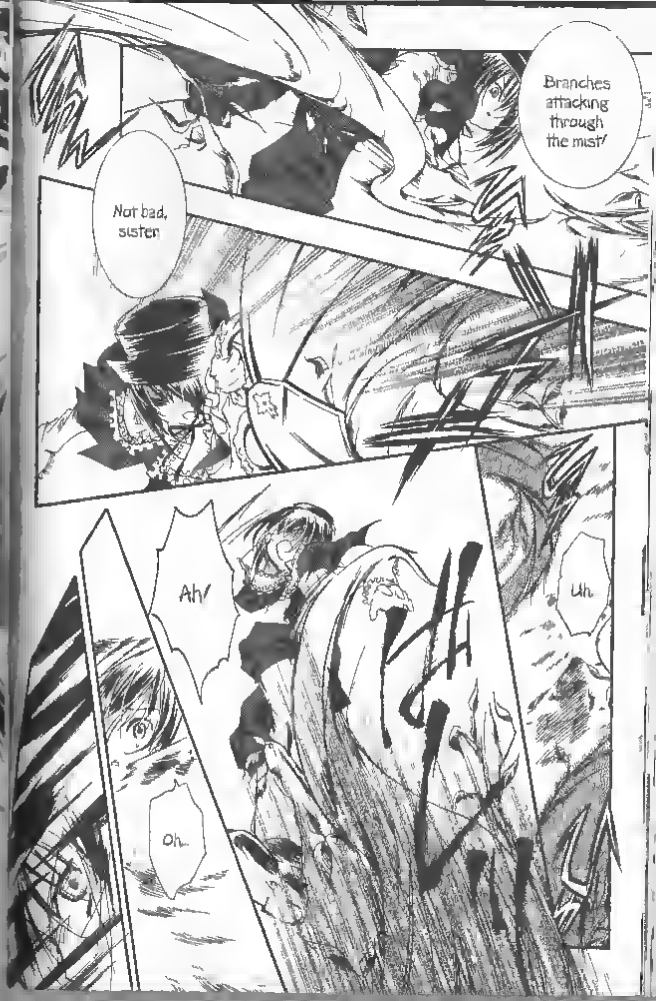
She survived that horrible ordeal...
But they were wrong
Her body was missing, so the coroners assumed that she had died at sea.
Yes.
I have searched tirelessly for the tree of her soul..
And for that...
..you must kill her?
I cannot forgive her...
...and promptly forgot all about me and Futaba. She married another man and embraced a completely different life
...and therefore must exact revenge upon her to once again seize my true identity... Kazuha Yubishi.
...so I can cut off the branches of her memories.

Suiseiseki
..her tree.
That's
..I'll have killed it.
If I can cut into its branches with the shears or rot its roots with the watering can...
Do it, Souseiseki
Yes master
No!
Stop it!
..you'll stop me?
I'm glad
We can battle to our heart's content
Our masters are both here.
Shinku
Either way you're still working for me.
Who cares what we call you.
Maybe I outrank you?
So I'm Shinku's master? I'm always being treated like a servant but..

13
Fog ?
Tree of the Soul -
-please give me a little bit of your power
The power to save you

I shall give it my all, yes!
This is my battle, yes.
You stay out of it, yes.
Yes - but.
I see Sui sei seki.
But if it looks as though your Rosa Mystica is at risk-
-I will intervene.
Okay yes?
It's scary to do this alone, but

Suisei-seki.
No more playing around.
S-Souseiseki.
But.
We were... always together


Branches attacking through the mist!
Not bad, sister
Ah!
Uh.
Oh...

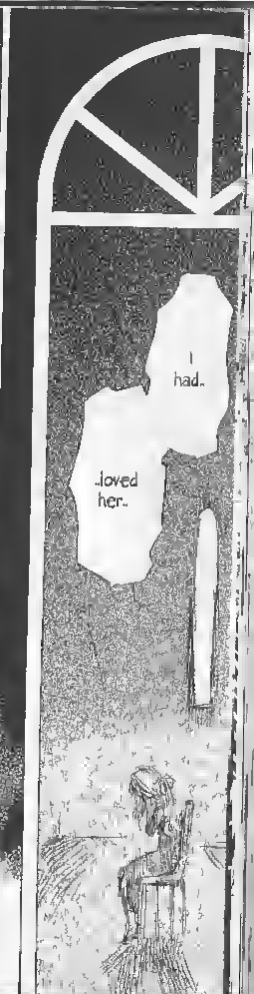
Stop!
It is to be protected and revered!
This tree has been living prosperously for a long time, yes.
No...
Listen to me, yes!
You should not harm it
By even you, Sousei-seki.
The tree...
Yes. Just cut it down!
Sousei-seki...!

Kyaa!
Sousei-seki...
Suisei-seki
...I must cut you off...
...to be myself.

We balance each other
You were...
...always like this.
But if you insist on trying to cut it down...
...I shall cut you down Sousei-seki, yes!
You're shy and scared... you always hide from conflict, but...
...when we decide to move ahead, you take the lead.
You pull me along with you
But now...
...you are...
...alone.

I remember now..
I...
If I were Futaba.
Why not me?
Why am I not loved and Futaba is?
Futaba and I are two as one, but
Another earth-quake?!
The entire world of this memory...
...is being shaken!
What's that...?

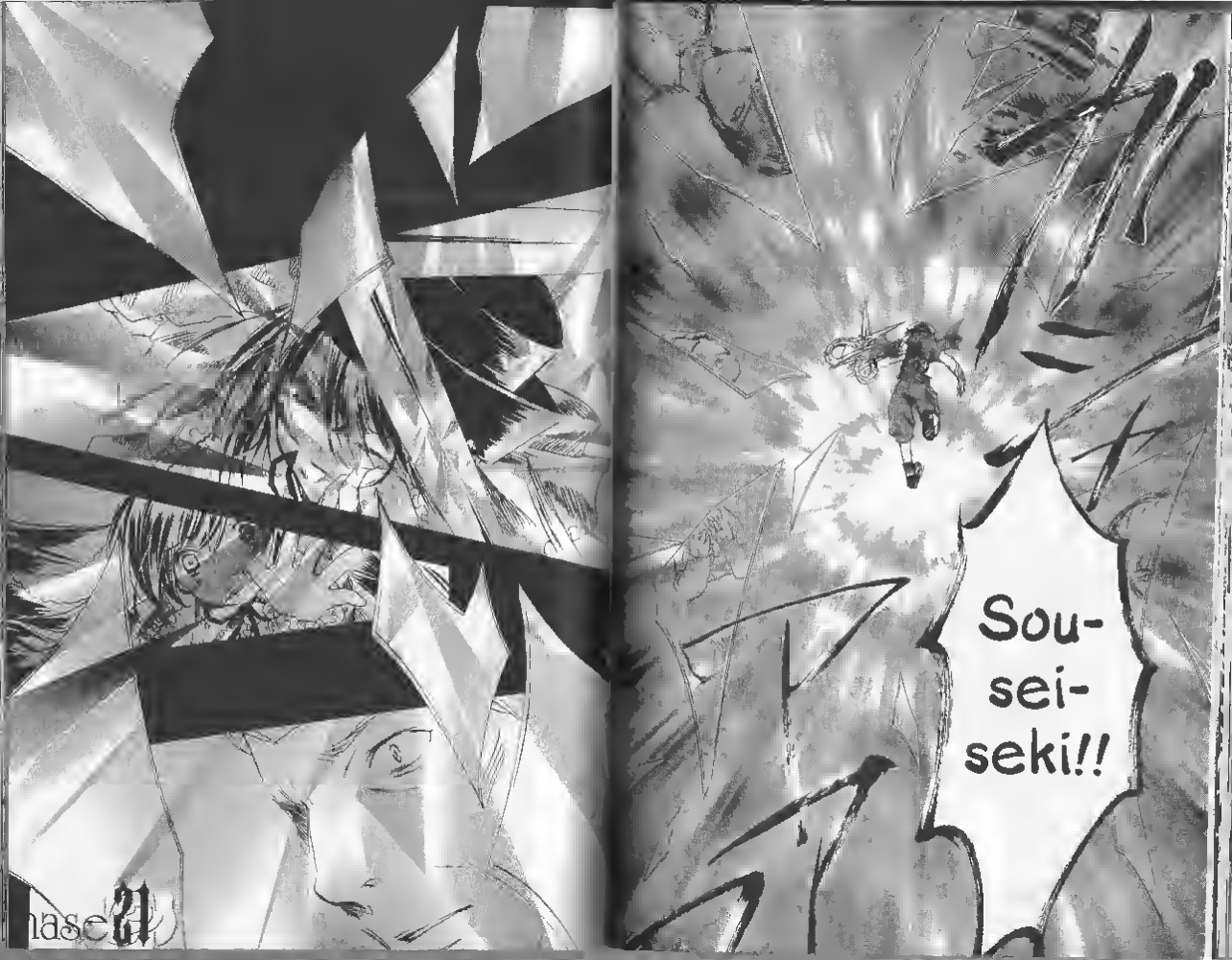
Will you wear black for the rest of your life?
Yes.
When the man I loved died.
...my soul died with him
No one in this world would wish unhappiness upon his loved ones
You have suffered enough and now must free yourself from the shadow of the dead
Futaba would want that, too.


I had..
..loved her..

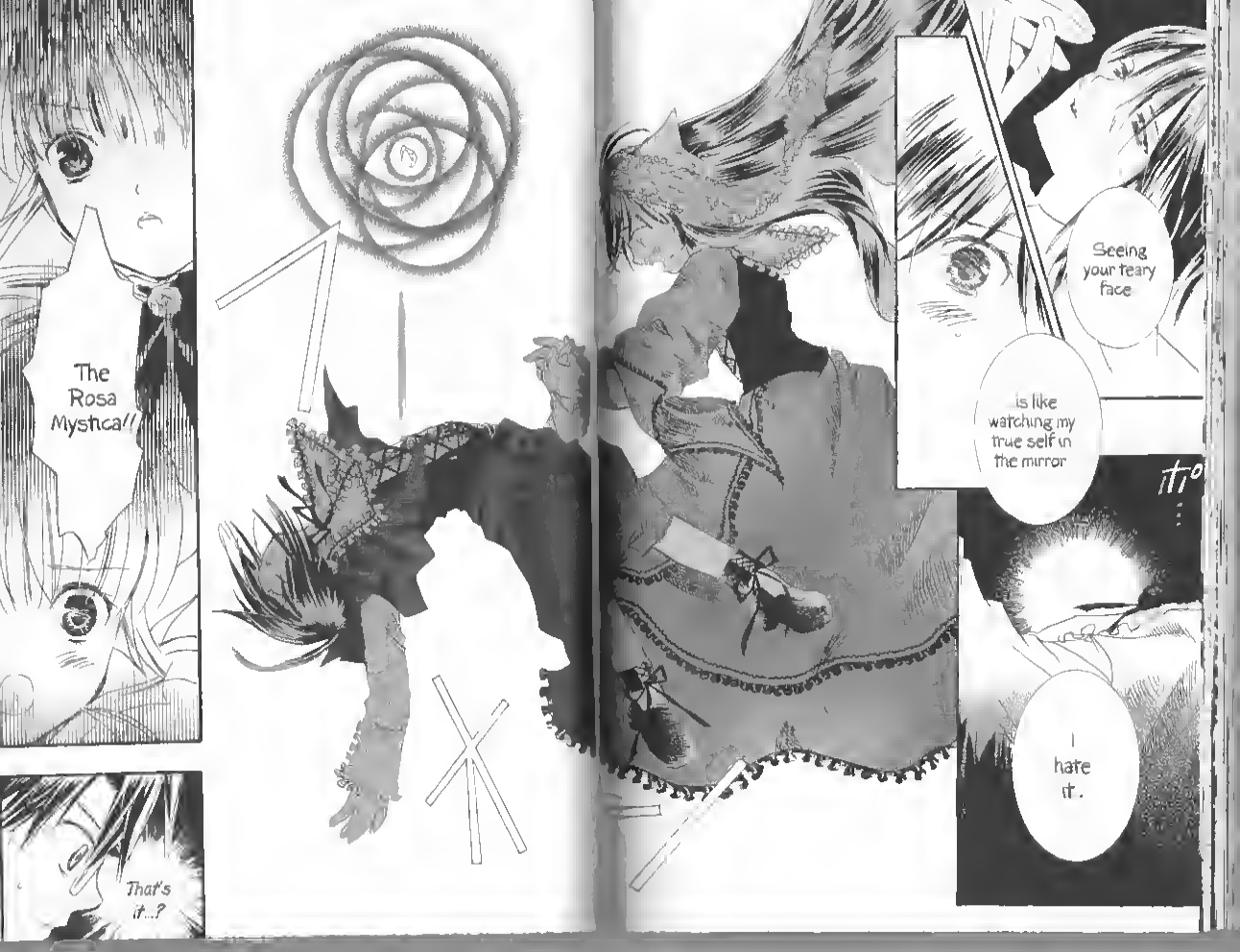
It was the other me...
The one that wears Futaba's identity and binds my soul...
The shadow of myself...!
Master... is that...
...your true wish...?

Oh...
Now I understand...
I was keeping myself bound in agony... me alone
I didn't want to kill her or Futaba...

I was ..
the same
I wanted to be my whole true self.. Not the half that I've been..
I fought and I struggled
..But the more I looked for myself..
..the more I was bound by the shadow of myself
And so I want to grant you your wish
Perhaps by doing so I can free myself, too
Sousei-sekı!
But at least if you can be freed by it..
I want to..
..grant you your wish!


Sou-
sei-
seki!!

Sousei seki!
Sousei-seki...
Don't... Don't go!
Are you crying again?


The Rosa Mystica!!
That's it...?
Seeing your teary face
is like watching my true self in the mirror
It's...
I hate it.

One absolutely beautiful tree...
A beautiful tree...
That has not rotted completely
Watch this
Don't cry
You and... Suiseiseki...
...can walk alone
I hate you but...
I...
...love you...
...the most
This is the Alice Game.
You have the strength...
Sei...

You win..
Make me.. a part of you...
...the soul of Rozen Maidens!
I can..
..no longer fight..
No.
No.. Suiseiseki...?
Master
But..
..your tree has wilted.
I'm afraid...

I'm sorry, silly Souseseki.
I've been wanting this for a long time
Oh, no This is mine
Suiginto!
Give it back!
I guess she can't hear me now
Heh Heh
Grr!
won't let you!
Uh fuh fuh fuh
Suiguintoh! How could you?!
I got it I got it
I got Souseseki's Rosa Mystica
Give.
Give it back...
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha !!

Shin-ku!
kya!
Amazing..
I feel fantastic..
Like I'm overflowing with power..
Look.. Look closely..
Ahh..
Uh fuh fuh fuh..

Shinku!!
Let's see a piece of junk like you...
Ku...
...catch these with just one arm!
Dummy!
Jun!!
Ouch..
It's hot
Why didn't you get out of the way?!
Well, I thought I could catch them

Jun.
You...
Cut it out
What do you think you're doing, human?
Trying to rack up some sympathy points?
If you keep on hurting them...
You got what you came for
You won today
You'll have to deal with me!
If you keep it up...
I...
I...
I...

Whoa..
Huh ?!
Shinku's ..
..right arm...

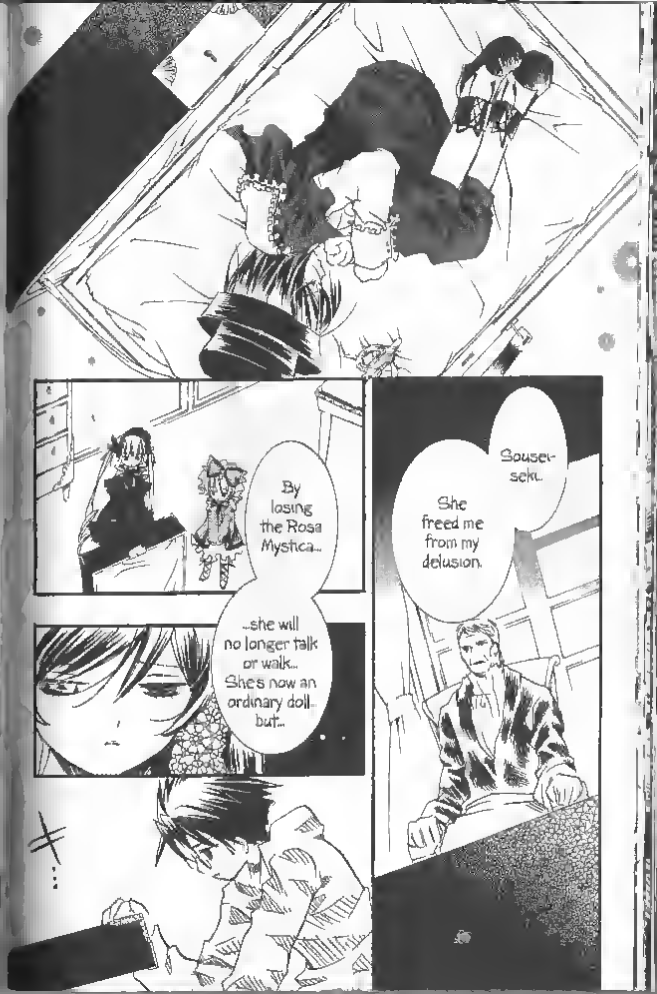
What the..?
Wha..
Whoa!
?!

Each of us Rozen Maidens is connected by a single thread of life..
That's right
Something like that can be done only by Father
Only a Maestro can wield such magic...
And that human did it...?
Some people call it..
Heh-
My..
hand
No one can reattach a broken part
It can't be...
What was that thing?
Huh..? Why?
What's happening to me?

...a sacred bond!
Ku
Punch ..?!
Shinku!
With a fist?!

That is..
...the destiny of the Rozen Maidens.
The bond between sisters...The bond between servants and masters
In the end, they will all be severed
We were born...
To despair... To be hopeless.
"Bond"...
...is such a
cheap and ugly word
Look, Shinku
I'll become..
...stronger and stronger
Remember

Looks like we'll make it for dinner
In real time it's only been ten minutes.
Yes...
Let's go home Nori's waiting for us.
Sniff
Yes...
I shall cherish her forever
Please... always remember...
...her soul


By losing the Rosa Mystica...
...she will no longer talk or walk... She's now an ordinary doll... but...
Souseseki...
She freed me from my delusion.

So we'll fight, yes?
We.. we won't lose!
I'm not itsy bitsy!
I'm not little!
..the itsy bitsy Hinaichigo is better than nothing, yes!
Jun is little but as a little human he can be useful from time to time and..
The Alice Game must end..
Yes..

Souseiseki's Rosa Mystica!
We must get it back, yes!
..even so, I'll get it back, yes!
Souseiseki may never wake up, but..
I'll not forgive Suiguntoh, yes!
And..
..I feel stronger than before!
Shinku, your arm is back to normal, and..
Suisei-seki..

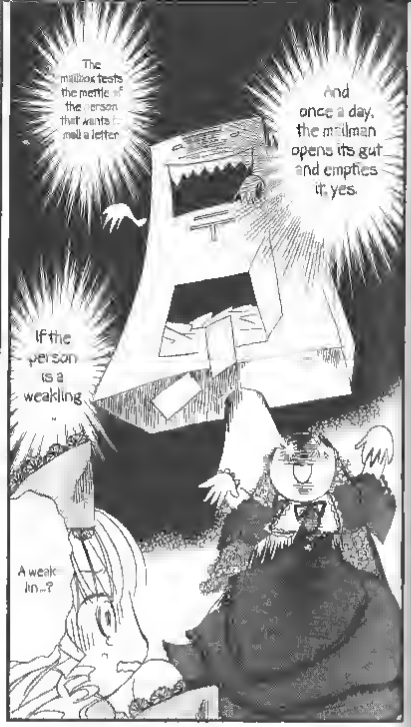
extra phase

In the honor of Rozen Maiden!

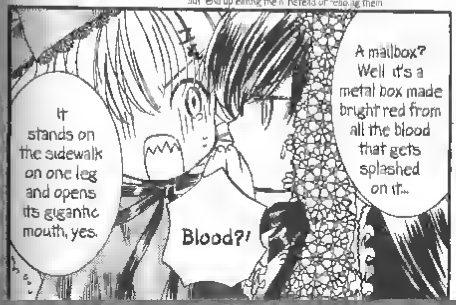
Itsy bitsy Hinaichigo... What have you been working on so intently, yes?
Ah, no!
Oh Suiseiseki, you're so mean
This isn't a letter is it?
Umm it's pictographs... hard to read

It's a secret, so you can't say it out loud!
Shut up!
I read one of Jun's books to learn this country's language
So I wrote him a thank you letter.
A book?

MEU-BEGIN


The mailbox tests the mettle of the person that wants to mail a letter.
And once a day, the mailman opens its gut and empties it, yes.
If the person is a weakling...
A weakling...?

* The mailman is a Japanese nursery rhyme in which a white goat and a black goat write letters to each other but end up eating the letters instead of sending them.


It stands on the sidewalk on one leg and opens its gigantic mouth, yes.
Blood?!
A mailbox? Well, it's a metal box made bright red from all the blood that gets splashed on it...

You must discipline your man-made spirit.
Berry-bell is shy...
This way
Over here--
Would you come with me? I need to go out
This better be important I'm watching Kun Kun
Shinku
Shinku
What is that putrid smell?!
It's Kun Kun! He's completely lost his sense of smell
Them?
No way There are lots of them around here
Shinku please. Just for a little bit.
Just call it and see what it says.
Urrr.. But my man-made spirit is...
If it's an errand, have your man-made spirit do it
My ex-ex-servant had a cat and...my...oh, I don't even want to think about it!
Cats are the most demonic animals in the world
Cats?
Cats!
Please come to me Berrybell
Oui...
A doll cat is another story
Take my advice Don't get involved with cats.
Cats are a Rozen Maiden's worst enemy!
Oui...

Faaaaah! That was scary- but...
I fell on something soft..?
Huh?
Kyaaah!
Uh-oh

Hinaichigo, you can do it
I've got my biscuits for a snack and my letter
Oh, no! I missed them solving the crime
Dogs are superior to cats. More gentlemanlike and smarter and kinder just look at Kun Kun.
You're my man-made spirit!
Come on Berrybell Stop saying no!
-always open.
I know that... upsadaisy that this window in the bathroom is..
W-whoa
Here I come..

So many interesting things
There are so many things outdoors
Wait for me
Oh!
I'm...I'm sorry...
Really~
Biscuits?
Do you like them?
Are you really, really sure that~
...the mailbox is this way?
Uhmm
Cat san.

Sniff
Dont cry now
Uhmm-
Ku.
..cant reach..
...send-ing a letter!
Hinai-chigo is...

The mailbox!
Red! One leg!
Ah, wah, wah, wah...
If he sees me, he'll bite my head off
I came here to send a letter to Jun!
B-but..

Kya...
I did it!
Tomoe-!
Hmaichigo?

Eiyaaah!
Umm
Just-
...a little more-
カコン..

Phase 22
Fuh Fuh Fuh Fuh Fuh Fuh.
I've found you...
Finally found you.
Uh huh. You look happy
Why are you smiling, Tomoe?
Why?
Well I am happy
Am I smiling?
It's pro-bably--
You were such a baby not long ago, but now look at what you were able to do all by yourself.
Uh huh.
Changed? Are you happy when I change?
I was thinking about how you've changed, Hinaichigo.
I like Tomoe and Nori, too.
Well, then, let's get you back to him. He might be worried.
Hinaichigo, do you like Sakurada-kun?
I like him!
Is this some kind of subliminal direct mail marketing campaign?

Phase 22

Have I done it, Pizzicato?!
After thirty-six failures have I finally found them?
..Shinku could be a bit scary However..
The twinless Suiseiseki is not an issue but..
Well, the cry-baby Hinaichigo is an easy win
Three Rosa Mysticas all within my grasp..
..in the end, they're just a gaggle of baby chicks Hardly a challenge

Rozen Maiden

Dance, dance, yes!
I can't see in front of me!
どた
Noooo!
Ha Ha Ha
どた
ポイ
ポイ
Aaaargh. Will you just shut up??
I thought I told you to prepare Assam tea
Hey, Jun

..will seize all in one fell swoop ♡
..smartest of the Maidens of the Rose..
Kanana..
No. I can't...
Did I slip, I wonder?

Jun...
.....

Jun-kun!
You-you!
Hey don't just barge in here!

The milk is too cold Will you bring me some that's warm?
Wha?!
Within thirty seconds! Chop Chop!
Milk

Well she's right back to her old self

It's simple The dress in time spring must have wound back the other way
Hwaaah
She read my mind again!
That's really strange
And what happened to the rip in her dress I sewed closed for her?

If my reasoning is correct, that means a door will open.
A human is leaving
Which means I can slip in when it does maybe
Yes I'm right Yes, yes yes.
Haah. Perhaps I was a bit hasty...
Hn?
See you later
Ah.
No, Pizzicato! don't be so impatient We might screw things up
We'll have to be patient if we are to be successful
Fuh Fuh Fuh Shinku and the others will stand no chance when I the smartest of the Maidens of the Rose stand to face them.
You see? There they go again.
You're such good friends. It makes me so happy
What?
Nuh-uh. Hinaichigo tore my lace.. see?
Oh.
Non Suiseiseki is being mean to me
The ribbon
You did it yourself you dumb-dumb
All of you, get out!
All right Jun-kun I'm going shopping for dinner Look after the darlings, okay?
Jun, get me some milk At once
No you can't, Jun
Jun, would you please fix me too yes?

It's coming. It's coming...
When the door opens, that will be our chance
Okay, focus. focus.. now go, Pizzicato!
Ah..
..quickly and with grace.
The point is to fly in a spiral..

It Works! Z
Phew-
Finally some peace and quiet
Little human, there's a visitor
Jun, open up
Aarghh!
Ugh..
Ding
Dong
Not here
Not here

That..
That human... who is it..?
Oh, you don't know? I grew up with her...
Hey...
?
You needn't be scared of her
It's okay Suisei-seki.
Tomoe was one of Hinaichigo's former masters.
Tomo!
Eh!
Tomo!
I'm very, very, very, very well!
You look well, Hinaichi-go
Eh!
Mo!
Toh!
No! No!
I just stopped by to deliver some sweets I'll just leave
I thought your sister might be in
Kya kya!
Oh, boy

Oh, this...?
What is it?
You always carry that long, burdensome bag with you
What?
See?
I've studied with my father ever since I was a child. Would you like to hold it?
It's just a kendo sword. Chill
Oh...
It's a wooden sword, the weapon of vengeful spirits. She's going to kill us all now, yes.
.....
What do you think you're doing?!
You did it on purpose
It was heavy
Ouch!

It's scaredy CAT, dumb-berry
Ha Ha!
Susuiseki, you're a real scaredy butt
How curious that Tomoe scares you
You have the most beautiful eyes.
They're the same as my twin, Souseseki, yes.
Are you Suiseseki?
It's nice to meet you.
Tomoe..

Yes!
The humans have...
...their things to talk about
I shall fly down from the roof to the veranda and enter from the window
I dare say this plan is perfect!
All it requires now is expert execution!
Oh... I'm sorry
It's cute
But it's like you're their big brother Sakurada-kun.
Why not?
D-don't laugh.
Hee Hee Hee
Tee hee
Why did we come out, yes?
But I haven't had any sweets yet
Just shut up and stay up here for a while.

Hmm
But everyone's just wondering about the midterm field trip--whether it will be co-ed or split between boys and girls.
Of course, Mr. Umeoka is the same as always
Now he's trying to bring up the class score on the midterm.
.....
What do you mean?
How have you been?
Sakurada-kun...
Some-thing seems different
Differ-ent?
I'm the same The dolls are noisy
Yes. We wouldn't have been able to talk like this a little while ago, and...
And Nori is stupid
.....?

Ah!
!
!
The pin.?
What?
So I'm the class rep for grade eight
Yeah. The class voted me in and Mr. Umeoka recommended me to the principal
Hmph..
!

I didn't really want to be a class rep either
I just did it because everyone expects it of me
It's always the same
I can never tell anyone what I really want
If I could...
...say what I want...

Since Hinatchigo's been gone...
...I'm just back to doing the same old things
What I really want to do is to quit all the clubs and just study for my entrance exams
But I couldn't possibly say that to my father

Maybe I'm the one...
...that hasn't changed at all

But...
...every-one is connected
You're right
The individual stays the same.
No matter how old we are or how we change...
...I'm still me, and...
Sakurada-kun is still Sakurada-kun, but...

We don't want to be outsiders. We don't want people to get angry
We don't want people to think we're strange
Why is it that when we get older we worry about these things?
So we tangle ourselves up in expectations. Like we're caught inside a cage.

Crab cream croquettes!
Welcome home yes! What's for dinner?
Good to see you, Nori
Oh, Tomoe-chan! So good to see you!
This idiot..
.....
Yes, all hugs!
Oh..
What's wrong Tomoe?
I'm fine
I'm casting on you.. a happy spell

You both hesitate to take the first step
But you're not lost..
Because I know that you know-
..that there's a door in front of you.
I'm home! I'm sorry it took so long!
Look, these mandarins were on sale!
MANDARINS
A door..?

Oh... What a lovely song
Needly thorns.
The green green..
♪ The orange flowers thorns are painful..
You should close your window or you'll catch cold.
Not coming..
What?
Nothing..
Don't stop

Heh Heh..
Rub Rub
It tickles.
Urrrgh..
Well, I'll let them go today on account of my consuming hunger
...how to get down!
Pizzi-cato!
Now, if I can only figure out..

To be continued

Rozen Maiden

Preview for Volume 5

It seems that sickness and death continue to loom in the world of Rozen Maiden. Suiguintoh may be able to heal her master, but who will heal her? Suiseiseki and Shinku meet in a dream to confront the loss of Souseiseki, but they do not seem alone in their mourning. Meanwhile, Jun seems to be getting better, but will that be short-lived if memories continue to torment him.